Public Affairs Office 2400 Wright Street Madison, WI 53704 Contact: Lt. Col. David A. Olson 608-245-4339 Cell: 608-516-9087

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Air National Guard Services Flight called to active duty

About 30 members of the Wisconsin Air National Guard's 115th Fighter Wing are expected to be ordered to active duty Saturday (Feb. 15) for an initial period of up to six months. The fighter wing, based at Madison's Truax Field, has more than 1,000 members and flies the F-16C Fighting Falcon.

The members called to active duty belong to a 49-member services flight that is part of the 115th Fighter Wing. The services flight's mission is to provide housing, meals and other support services for military units. Wisconsin Guard officials expect the mobilized Guard members will eventually deploy overseas.

The 115th Fighter Wing as a whole has not been mobilized.

The activation of the 115th Services Flight is part of the partial mobilization of the Guard and Reserve ordered by President Bush in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. More than 150,000 Guard and Reserve personnel nationwide are presently serving on active duty under the partial mobilization, supporting Operations ENDURING FREEDOM (overseas U.S. military operations to combat terrorism) and NOBLE EAGLE (homeland defense and security operations in the continental United States).

This will be the 22nd Wisconsin National Guard mobilization since the end of the Gulf War in 1991, when more than 1,400 Wisconsin Army and Air National Guard personnel from nine units were mobilized.

Mobilization of these airmen will bring the total number of Wisconsin National Guard soldiers and airmen currently on active duty to about 1,225. In addition to the 115th Services Flight, there are currently 10 other Army National Guard units, one Army Guard air base security task force, and three Air Guard units on active duty. About 1,950 Wisconsin National Guard soldiers and airmen will have served on active duty during the past 16 months.